

The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome here.*



*Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online*

† † †

Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 23, 2023
10:15am

Welcome

*May God's loving presence be very real to you,
and may you receive strength and guidance today
That will enable you to handle life's challenges.*



Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.
The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul.
(*Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table.*)

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information....

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the **Blue Visitor Table** in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

*{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♪# = Blue Hymnal Page}*

Virtual Worship Service

Online: **Live Stream** at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)
Facebook Live at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.org/> - Live or Watch & Listen Later
Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org



www.sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

We Gather

*We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God,
and provide for one another our love, support, and care.*

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*{If you have not already done so,
please sign and pass the pew welcome pad
to the person next to you.}*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP[®] (Unison)

Wondrous God, present with us when we do not know it, valuing us when we do not care for ourselves, planting in us the seed of your word even when the soil of our hearts is hard and unyielding, open our eyes to recognize you here. May we sense your presence next to us. May we hear your voice. May we know your touch. May we see you in one another and in the beauty all around us. May your reality emerge deep inside each life, transforming our thoughts and deeds and our relationship with one another. Amen.

PRELUDE

"Because He Lives"

by William J. Gaither, arranged for piano by Fred Bock

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Lord of Life is Risen"

♪ Red #172

Public Domain

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father,
and of God the Son,
and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP^①

Leader: Let us open our hearts to the One who gives us life.
Let us set our faith and hope in God above all else.

**People: In one another's presence, we renew our vows.
Together we offer our thanksgiving sacrifice.**

Leader: God's promises to us are ancient and ever new.
God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

**People: Together we lift our voices in songs of praise.
Together we recognize we are precious in God's sight.**

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*CALL TO CONFESSION ^① (Leader)

Peter preached: "Save yourselves from this crooked generation. Repent...so your sins may be forgiven." Have we joined the "me" generation in putting our own interests before all else? In putting "me first," we alienate ourselves from God. We have much to confess before we can claim the wholeness God offers. Let us confess our sins before God and before one another. Let us pray....

*CONFESSION OF SIN ^① (Unison)

O God, we confess that we rush through our days without recognizing your presence with us. We follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us. We strive for financial success and personal recognition, while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love. Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities. May we be born anew through your living and enduring word. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ^① (Leader)

The promise of forgiveness is for us and for our children, for everyone whom God calls. The gift of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive. Lift up the cup of salvation every day, and call on God's name. Give thanks for the words and deeds of Jesus, who revealed God's love for us and enlists us as disciples and apostles. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to our risen saviour.

People: **We praise God's holy name.**

*SUNG PRAISE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him,
I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him, I will praise Him!**

{please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God." Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

New Testament History: [Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#)

New Testament Letter: [1 Peter 1:17-23](#)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel (Good News): [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Leader: This is the Good News.

People: Thanks be to God.

MINI-MESSAGE

MUSIC

"This is the Day"

Text & Music: Les Garrett

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.**

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

*We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped,
we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have
learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by
re-affirming our faith in God,
praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world,
and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) "Apostles' Creed"**
**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead;
on the third day he rose again,
ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

{Please be seated for the Healing Rite}

ORDER FOR HEALING

{The Rite of Healing is a time when we as a Christian family of faith gather to be in love, support, and care for one another, as a prayerful community. We seek healing and wholeness in body, mind, spirit, and relationship. Our prayers may be for ourselves, someone we know, or someone we heard about in the news media, for we desire healing and wholeness for all in our world. We trust in God's will and wisdom in answering our prayers.

"Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (James 5:17).}

Leader: Christ promises to reach out to all people with healing grace and, through the Holy Spirit, endows the church with many gifts to become instruments of healing to all who hurt in body, in mind, in spirit, and in relationships. Upon this promise and commission, the church is entrusted with the ministry of laying on of hands, that through this sign those who suffer may be in touch with the power that brings wholeness.

PRAYER FOR ANOINTING

{A prayer offered over the oil used for anointing during the rite of healing}.

Leader: O God, as the apostles anointed many who were sick and you healed them, so may your Holy Spirit come on us and on this oil, that those who receive this anointing in repentance and faith may be made well in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

INVITATION TO A TIME OF PRAYER

Leader: Let us focus our minds and hearts on the healing love and power of the living Christ.

HEALING PRAYERS (Four Options)

{There is no one way to come to God in prayer. We offer more than one way to participate in prayers of healing in order to better meet the spiritual diversity of those gathered for worship, and our preferences and needs change throughout our spiritual lives. You may participate in more than one of the following}.

ORDER FOR LAYING ON OF HANDS (Option 1)

{“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them....” (James 4:14).}

For those preferring this option, we invite you to come forward and sit in the first pew. One of our healing team pairs will pray for persons one at a time (or you may come forward as a couple or as a family). Let them know your name and if you have a particular healing prayer request or would just like a general prayer for healing. The prayer team will then place their hands on you (i.e. head/shoulders/back), pray for you, and then anoint your head with oil. After which you may depart.

If you are not able to come forward, allow an usher to know, as prayer teams are more than happy to come to you.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Option 2)

We invite you to use the ritual of lighting a candle for your prayer. Simply come forward and use one of the match sticks to light a candle for healing and wholeness. If there are multiple persons for whom you are lifting up in prayer, you are certainly welcome to use additional candles for each person. You may wish to softly speak their name as you light the candle. You may also wish to pause and offer a silent prayer to God for them, for yourself, or for whomever you are praying.

KNEELING PRAYER (Option 3)

You are invited to come forward and kneel at the chancel rail to offer prayers of healing for yourself and/or for others.

REMAINING IN YOUR PEW (Option 4)

For those who do not come forward for any of the other three options, we invite you to pray for yourself and/or pray for those who come forward for healing and wholeness in your life and in theirs.

Picture those you bring to Jesus in prayer, with Him, whole not broken. May you know that what God sees in you first is not your illness, your mortal limitation, or your sin; God sees you first as His holy and precious child, created in His image, and He longs for you to be healed and whole - body, mind, spirit, and relationship - through this rite of healing, may you too see yourself through the eyes of the Divine.

{Congregation, please remain seated; the choir may rise for the singing of this hymn.}

HYMN

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

♩Blue #563

Public Domain

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior,
He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior, He's my Savior!**

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: Our offerings are a sacrifice of thanksgiving in the spirit of Jesus,
People: who gave everything, even life itself, to proclaim God's inclusive love.
Leader: God calls all people to become children of the promise,
People: and to this end we dedicate our gifts.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure [Online Giving](https://www.sprucc.org) option on our website at [sprucc.org](https://www.sprucc.org) (Click Here), or you may mail your offering to United Church of Christ of Robesonia; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

by William Bradbury, arranged by Fred Bock

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"Alleluia"

Text & Music: Jerry Sinclair

**He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy,
He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy, He is worthy!**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** [®] (*Leader*)

Thank you, God, for the privilege of joining with Christ in the proclamation of your love for all people. May the ministries we support serve to unite people across all differences, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with healing energy. Bless these gifts and all who give in any way to make your love known. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Out

*In response to God's love and grace,
we go out into the world to share God's Good News
through our words and actions.*

*COMMISSION ²

Leader: Christ is alive in our midst.
Christ goes with us along all life's roads.

People: **We go out to serve in Christ's name.**
May the love of Christ be expressed through us.

ALL: **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"He Lives"

♪ *Blue #368*
One License #A-728042

*{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us,
as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}*

POSTLUDE

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretoserve



The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

- (1) God welcomes us and invites us
- (2) We respond to God's call by worshipping Him
- (3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace
- (4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace
- (5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon
- (6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer
- (7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure
- (8) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others



Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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 - ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
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 - ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
 - ⑦ Reprinted with permission from *Worship Ways of the United Church of Christ*. (2013).
 - ⑧ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑨ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). *In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion*. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press
 - ⑩ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
 - ⑪ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
 - ⑫ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
 - ⑬ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest
 - ⑭ *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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About Today

Church Season: Easter - Easter is the 50 days from the Saturday of Holy Week to Pentecost. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most joyful season of the church year. The first Sunday of Easter, Resurrection Sunday, is the highest and holiest day of the Christian Church.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

White - symbolizing the defeat of death and the darkness of sin with the resurrection to eternal life.

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, April 23, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

The Acts of the Apostles

The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles (NT) are attributed to Luke "the beloved physician" written around 59-90 A.D. This is essentially volume 2 of the Gospel of Luke. The Book of Acts records the ministry of the early church after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, and guides us how we are to live, act, work, and be the church.

Psalm 116

This is an OT song of thanksgiving, where the individual saying/singing it is giving praise to God for deliverance from past troubles and giving assurance of that they will keep their vows to God.

The First Letter of Peter

This NT Epistle (letter) is attributed to the Apostle Peter, who's name means "rock." Jesus appointed Simon Peter to lead the church after his ascension. Peter was a fisherman at the time Jesus called him to be a disciple. This letter is believed to be written pseudonymously in Rome around 70-90 A.D. This letter particularly addresses social tensions being felt within the Greco-Roman culture that are being attributed to the spread of the Christian faith.

The Gospel According to Luke

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles is attributed to Luke "the beloved physician," written around 59-90 A.D. (C.E.). Not having met Jesus personally, Luke undertook the task of "investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account" of Jesus Christ, "so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed."

Next Sunday, April 30, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; Luke 10:1-10

Our Lord Jesus Christ

J. P. LANGE, 1851
Tr. H. HARBAUGH

RESURRECTION

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ALICE NEVIN, 1837-1925

Jubilantly

1. The Lord of life is ris - en; Sing, Eas - ter her - alds, sing!
2. The Lord of life is ris - en, And love no lon - ger grieves;
3. A - round Thy tomb, O Je - sus, How sweet the Eas - ter breath;
4. O pub - lish this sal - va - tion, Ye her - alds, through the earth,
5. Hail, hail, our Je - sus ris - en! Sing, ran - somed breth - ren, sing!

He bursts His rock - y pris - on; Wide let the tri - umph ring!
In ru - in lies death's pris - on, Sing, her - alds, Je - sus lives!
Hear we not in the breez - es, "Where is thy sting, O death?"
To ev - ery bur - ied na - tion Pro - claim the day of birth!
Through death's dark, gloom - y pris - on Let Eas - ter cho - rals ring!

In death no long - er ly - ing, He rose, the Prince, to - day;
We hear Thy bless - ed greet - ing; Sal - va - tion's work is done!
Dark hell flies in com - mo - tion, The heavens their an - thems sing;
Till, ris - ing from their slum - bers In long and an - cient night,
Haste, haste, ye cap - tive le - gions, Ac - cept your glad re - prieve;

Life of the dead and dy - ing, He tri - umphed o'er de - cay.
We wor - ship Thee, re - peat - ing, "Life for the dead is won!"
While far o'er earth and o - cean Glad hal - le - lu - jahs ring!
The count - less hea - then num - bers Shall hail the Eas - ter light.
Come forth from sin's dark re - gions; In Je - sus' king - dom live! A-MEN.

Open My Eyes That I May See 563

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law. Psalm 119:18

Ab AbM7 Ab6 Ab Ab6 Eb9/Bb Eb7/Bb Eb7 Db/Eb Eb7 Fm/Ab Ab

1. O - pen my eyes that I may see Glimp-ses of truth Thou hast for me;
 2. O - pen my ears that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send-est clear;
 3. O - pen my mouth and let me bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

1 2 3 4

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb7 Gm/Bb Bb7 Bb Gm/Bb

Place in my hands the won - der - ful key That shall un-clasp and
 And while the wave - notes fall on my ear, Ev - ery - thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare Love with Thy chil - dren

5 6 7

Refrain
 Gm/Bb Bb7 Eb Ab AbM7 Ab6 Ab Ab6 Eb9/Bb Eb7/Bb Eb7 Db/Eb Eb7

set me free. Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy
 dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy
 thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy

8 9 10 11

Fm/Ab Ab Ab Eb/Bb Ab C Ab7/C Db6 Db Eb7 Ab

will to see; O - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine.
 will to see; O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine.
 will to see; O - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine.

12 13 14 15 16

TEXT: Clara H. Scott
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott

SCOTT
 Irregular meter

368 He Lives

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! Revelation 1:18

Ab Fm Ab Fm Ab Fm Ab

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; I
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care; And
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing E -

Ab C C7 Fm AbM7 Bb7 Bb9 Eb7 Ab Fm

5 know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er men may say. I see His
 6 tho' my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair. I know that
 7 ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! The Hope of
 8
 9

Fm Ab Fm Ab Fm Ab Bb7 Ab Bb Eb

10 hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I
 11 He is lead - ing thro' all the storm - y blast; The day of His ap -
 12 all who seek Him, the Help of all who find; None oth - er is so
 13

Bb7 Gm Bb7 Eb Refrain N.C. Ab Ab6 Ab7 Ab9 C

14 need Him, He's al - ways near. He lives, He lives! Christ
 15 pear - ing will come at last. He lives, He lives!
 16 lov - ing, so good and kind. He lives, He lives!

Db Db6 Db Ab Cm Eb7 Eb9 Db Ab Bb7

19 Je - sus lives to - day! He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's
 20
 21
 22
 23

TEXT: Alfred H. Ackley
 MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley

ACKLEY
 13.13.13.11. with Refrain

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RESURRECTION

B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat 7 A \flat A \flat 6 A \flat 7 A \flat 9 C D \flat D \flat 6 D \flat 7 C

nar - row way. He lives, He lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
 He lives, He lives,

C F7 F+ F7 B \flat 9 B \flat 7 D \circ 7 A \flat E \flat E \flat 7 A \flat

rit.

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with - in my heart!

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32